(iii) In case of a bidder, not falling in clause (a) or (b) above the bidder should have a legally binding agreement with the manufacturer mentioned at clause (a) or operation mentioned at clause (b) above. Such agreement should confirm that the bidder would have the necessary services from such organization upto the period of this contract.

(2) Scope of Work: The scope of work includes the following:—

Phase-I:

Conducting site scientific investigations, Preparing study report, Design and obtaining Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) approval for technology and equipment.

Phase-II:

Mining contract for production of coal on Cost at per tonne basis. The payment for the Phase-I work will be payable after obtaining the permission from DGMS for coal production. 25% of the total amount would be paid on getting DGMS approval for each project in sequence of operation. These studies shall be completed in 4 months.

(3) Payment Methodology:

Payment for production of coal will be made on fortnightly basis for the coal produced during the 15 days within the next 15 days.

Basis of payment would be on tonnage produced by arranging a Belt Weigher OR on surveyed volume calculated on the agreed survey method.

(c) and (d) There has been no violation of tender conditions and no amount has been paid so far by SCCL to the agency.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) and (d) above.

Telecom services in rural areas

1876. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country lacking telecom facility;

(b) whether Government has directed private telephone operators to provide telecom services in rural and remote areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the private telecom operators are complying with the said directives of Government; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to take advantage of telecom revolution to all the villages in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) There are 5,93,601

inhabitated villages in the country as per Census 2001. Out of this, 5,30,624 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. It has been decided to provide the VPT facility in all the remaining 62,977 uncovered villages also with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in a period of two years.

(b) to (e) As per present policy of Unified Access Service Licences (UASL), there is no roll out obligation for Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs) to provide telephones in rural areas. However, USO Fund is being extensively deployed for providing subsidy support to increase the penetration of telecom services in rural areas. Apart from BSNL, PBSOs are also participating in various schemes for provision of telecom facilities in rural areas under subsidy support of USOF though bidding process.

Information technology cities

1877. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build 43 new information technology cities across the country to retain its status in the business and to be in a position to tap the huge surge in demand for IT enabled services over the next 10 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been cleared by the Planning Commission; and

(d) whether these new towns would provide steady supply of workers and generate employment for millions of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The names of these 43 cities have emerged as part of a study conducted by National Association of Software Companies (NASSCOM). There is no proposal before the Government to build these new Information Technology cities.

Subscriber base in rural areas

1878. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to capture the new subscriber base in rural areas, the BSNL has since contemplated any measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private sector telecom companies are ahead of BSNL in capturing the subscriber base in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the strategy to be adopted by BSNL to capture the rural sector and to provide better facilities than private telecom companies?